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Dear House Transportation Committee:

The Michigan Fitness Foundation urges you to vote in opposition of **HB 4954** as written. This bill would eliminate the requirement of communities to fund non-motorized infrastructure utilizing the 1% of the annual transportation budget average over 10 years. These funds are a vital source of funding for sidewalks and pathways that allow citizens of all ages and abilities to get safely from home to school, work, and recreation. Safe non-motorized infrastructure is a key factor in improving a community's sense of place, enhancing healthy lifestyles and contributing to economic stability and growth.

The current statute has contributed to a vast number of local community infrastructure projects in Michigan such as bike lanes, sidewalks, trail connectors, and wide shoulders. Additionally, the provision requiring MDOT and local road agencies to prepare a five year plan for improving nonmotorized transportation is a critical tool for connecting other nonmotorized infrastructure projects statewide like the Iron Belle Trail or the Joe Louis Greenway in Detroit. It has doubtlessly saved Michiganders from injury and death when traversing our roads and contributed to the safe routes to school that we all want for our children.

The Michigan Fitness Foundation works to advance pedestrian and bicyclist safety throughout the state of Michigan working on programs such as Safe Routes to School, a program assisting communities to help students walk and bike to school safely as well as supporting the Iron Belle Trail project and organizations such as Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance. The Michigan Fitness Foundation supports creating safer environments for cyclists and pedestrians to create healthy and active communities.

We at the Michigan Fitness Foundation hope that the committee does not take action today and allows more time for dialogue to address finding alternative ways to increase roadway funding and provide safe non-motorized routes across Michigan.

Sincerely,



Adam Hollier

Director of Government and Community Relations